

Estaing, Jean Baptiste Charles Henri Hector, Comte d'

{des-tan'}

The comte d'Estaing, b. Nov. 24, 1729, was a French admiral who served in India and as governor of the Antilles (1763-66) before commanding the French fleet dispatched to assist the American colonists in the American Revolution. Although he failed to engage English squadrons on the Atlantic seaboard in battle in 1778, he took Grenada (in the Caribbean) for France and was wounded (1779) in an unsuccessful attack on Savannah, Ga. He supported the French Revolution, but was guillotined on Apr. 28, 1794, for royalist leanings.

Bibliography: Lawrence, Alexander, *Storm Over Savannah: The Story of Count D'Estaing and the Siege of the Town in 1779*, rev. ed. (1968).

Dominica

Dominica, one of the smallest countries in the Western Hemisphere, is located in the Lesser Antilles of the Caribbean Sea. Roseau, the capital, is the island's main port.

A mountainous island of volcanic origin, Dominica is covered with forests. None of its many rivers is navigable. The annual average temperature is about 26 deg C (79 deg F), and rainfall may reach 6,350 mm (250 in) in the mountains, the highest of which is Morne Diablotin (1,447 m/4,747 ft).

The population is predominantly black, with a small settlement of CARIB Indians (descendants of the first inhabitants) in the interior. The official language is English, but many people speak a French patois. The largest segment of the labor force is agricultural, producing bananas and coconuts for export. There is a small tourism industry.

Christopher Columbus discovered Dominica on Nov. 3, 1493. In the 18th century it was contested between Britain and France but was under British control by 1805. It became independent on Nov. 3, 1978, as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. In 1983, Prime Minister Eugenia Charles (elected 1980), on behalf of the seven-nation Organization of Caribbean States, formally requested that the United States intervene militarily in neighboring Grenada. In 1990 she won a third five-year term. Hurricane Hugo struck the island in 1989, causing widespread damage.

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